

SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

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FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah receives Egyptian Prime Minister

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz received an Egyptian delegation in Riyadh on April 25 that included Prime Minister Dr. Essam Sharaf, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Faiza Abu Al-Naga, Minister of Finance Dr. Samir Radwan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Nabil Al-Arabi. During the subsequent meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation, developments in the Arab world and other issues of common interest.

On the two-day trip to the Kingdom, the delegation met with several other senior Saudi officials, including Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal. Following these meetings, Prime Minister Sharaf made a statement praising the deep-rooted, historic relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Responding to a question on relations between his country and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, the Prime Minister stressed that the security of the GCC nations is integral to the security of Egypt. He added, "We are tied with the GCC countries by historic relations and interference in their affairs is a red line."

King Abdullah received a number of other Arab officials last week including Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani and Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa on April 18 and 19, respectively. On April 22, the Saudi monarch held a meeting with Gen. Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahayyan, Abu Dhabi's Heir Apparent and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. RELATIONS

U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison tours Saudi Arabia

Eastern Province Governor Prince Mohammed bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz received a U.S. business delegation from Minnesota in Dammam on April 24 led by U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison and including U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom James Smith, U.S. Consul General Timothy Pounds and the President and Managing Director of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council, Edward Burton. During their meeting, the two sides reviewed the strong ties binding Saudi Arabia and the

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United States. Rep. Ellison commended the development experienced by the Kingdom and the Eastern Province.

Moving on to Riyadh, Rep. Ellison was received on April 26 by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal. During their meeting, which was attended by a number of Saudi and U.S. officials, bilateral relations and other issues of common interest were discussed. Rep. Ellison met the same day with Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdullah bin Ahmed Zainal Ali Reza, with whom he discussed trade and industrial relations between the Kingdom and the U.S., focusing particularly on the promotion of cooperation between the private sectors of both countries.